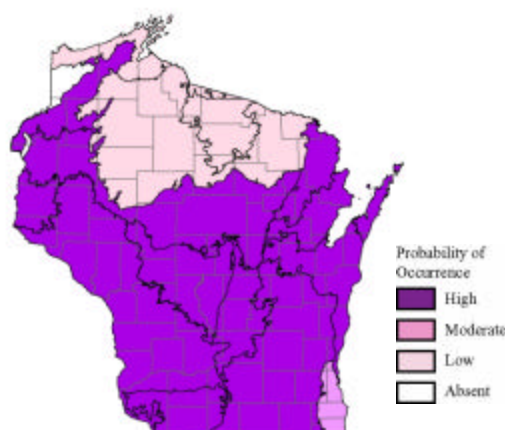


Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	3
State threats:	4
State population trend:	5
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	2
Global threats:	3
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	3.6
Area of importance:	4

* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Central sands pine-oak forest
Central Sand Hills	Southern dry forest
Central Sand Plains	Central sands pine-oak forest
Central Sand Plains	Floodplain forest
Central Sand Plains	Oak barrens
Central Sand Plains	Southern dry-mesic forest
Southeast Glacial Plains	Floodplain forest
Southeast Glacial Plains	Oak opening
Southeast Glacial Plains	Oak woodland
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern dry forest
Southeast Glacial Plains	Southern dry-mesic forest
Southwest Savanna	Oak opening
Southwest Savanna	Oak woodland
Western Coulee and Ridges	Floodplain forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak barrens
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak opening
Western Coulee and Ridges	Oak woodland
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry forest
Western Coulee and Ridges	Southern dry-mesic forest
Western Prairie	Oak opening
Western Prairie	Oak woodland

Threats and Issues

- Red-headed Woodpeckers do best in savanna-like woodlands or open oak woodlands. Most of these forests have been allowed to proceed through successional changes due to lack of fire or management for other objectives, and they now support denser forests of oak mixed with other hardwood species. Dead trees that provide sites for cavity nesters are now often removed from private woodlots or yards.

- Invasive plants such as buckthorn, etc. have destroyed many savanna-like habitats and will affect most oak woodlands in the state. Red-headed Woodpeckers prefer herbaceous ground cover as they often feed on the ground.
- European Starlings compete with this and other cavity-nesters for nest sites in and around homes and farms.
- Red-headed Woodpeckers fly low near roads and may be subject to automobile mortality.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Red-headed Woodpeckers are not area sensitive and could be managed for in smaller savanna restorations on private land.
- Experiment with management regimes that both regenerate oaks in southern forests while maintaining areas of older forests, including various harvest techniques and the use of prescribed fire.
- Manage deer populations at a level that allows for oak regeneration.
- There is a large need to control exotic, invasive shrubs.
- Conduct research on the potential negative effects of automobile collisions on populations.
- This would be a good species and habitat to target for a large, private lands cooperative effort.